

young scholars have worked conscientiously to reach the national finals by participating at local and statewide competitions. As a result of their experience they have gained a deep knowledge and understanding of the fundamental principles and values of our constitutional democracy.

The students are Nate Allen, James Berry, Andrew Brown, Ryan Buescher, Susan Creighton, Patrick Cunningham, Ashley Eppler, Kari Fulton, Joseph Garvin, Steve Harlor, Russell Hedman, Alex Home, Ali Kimmell, Eimear Lynch, Suzanne McCartney, Jacob Pearson, Emily Schulman, Joseph Tabano, Marta Thompson, Maria Velazquez and Trevor Wolfson. Kudos to them and their leader, East High teacher Edna Sutton. I would also like to recognize the State Coordinator Jackie Johnson and District Coordinator Loyal Darr whose hard work and dedication helps make it all possible.

The three-day We the People national competition is modeled after hearings in the United States Congress. The hearings consist of oral presentations by high school students before a panel of adult judges on constitutional topics. The students are given an opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge while they evaluate, take and defend positions on relevant historical and contemporary issues. Their testimony is followed by a period of questioning by the judges who probe the students' depth of understanding and ability to apply their constitutional knowledge.

The We the People program provides curricular materials at upper elementary, middle, and high school levels. The curriculum not only enhances students' understanding of the institutions of American constitutional democracy, it also helps them identify the contemporary relevance of the Constitution and Bill of Rights. Critical thinking exercises, problem-solving activities, and cooperative learning techniques help develop participatory skills necessary for students to become active, responsible citizens.

Independent studies by the Educational Testing Service (ETS) revealed that students enrolled in the We the People program at upper elementary, middle, and high school levels "significantly outperformed comparison students on every topic of the tests taken." Another study by Richard Brody at Stanford University discovered that students involved in the We the People program develop greater commitment to democratic principles and values than do students using traditional textbooks and approaches.

The class from East High School is currently preparing for their participation in the national competition. It is inspiring to see these young people advocate the fundamental ideals and principles of our government, ideas that identify us as a people and bind us together as a nation. It is important for future generations to understand these values and principles which we hold as standards in our endeavor to preserve and realize the promise of our constitutional democracy. I wish these young "constitutional experts" the best of luck at the We the People national finals.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ELIZABETH GUYTON GIRCH

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 19, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a solemn heart that I rise today to pay tribute to the life and legacy of Elizabeth Guyton Girch of Rocky Ford, Colorado. Elizabeth gave selflessly of her time and her money in order to help the developmentally disabled. Elizabeth also distinguished herself and made Colorado proud as one of the first women in the state to become an attorney. Several years ago, Denver University honored Elizabeth's achievements, presenting her with the first Mary Lathrop Trailblazer Award for excellence and accomplishment by female attorneys.

It is not Elizabeth's accomplishments as a woman that I wish to extol here today; though they are a testament to her tenacity. Instead, I wish to honor a life that helped protect some of the most disadvantaged members of our society, the developmentally disabled. Elizabeth was instrumental in establishing the Arkansas Valley Community Center, which serves people in the counties of Otero, Bent and Crowley. This was the culmination of her many years advocating for the developmentally disabled.

Mr. Speaker, we are all terribly saddened by the loss of Elizabeth Guyton Girch, but we take comfort in the knowledge that Elizabeth's legacy of compassion, courage and selflessness overshadows our grief. Elizabeth's life embodied both the resolve and the empathy that makes this country great, and I am deeply honored to be able to recognize Elizabeth's life before this body of Congress.

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1527) to amend title 49, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for the National Transportation Safety Board for fiscal years 2003 through 2006, and for other purposes:

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise to express my deep frustration with the Majority's refusal to bring legislation to the Floor that will extend unemployment benefits for the nation's unemployed workers.

Two point seven million jobs have been lost in the first two years of this Administration. Millions of working men and women are facing difficult budget decisions in their own homes everyday. Parents are wondering if they will be able to send their children to college. They are wondering how they will pay their bills without spiraling further into debt. Yet the Republican Majority and this White House insist on more tax cuts. Mr. Chairman, our constituents have to balance their checkbooks each month. We could learn a lot from their example.

New York City has faced especially difficult times during the past two years. I have heard countless stories from my constituents who cannot find jobs in this uncertain economy. The effects of 9/11, especially on New Yorkers, cannot be ignored.

Why can't the House leadership bring to the Floor legislation that will actually help workers? It's time to help thousands of New York families and families across the country keep their homes, put food on the table, and avoid a devastating financial crisis.

It's time for the leadership to get serious about unemployment relief and to give us the opportunity to vote for legislation that will make a difference in the lives of workers.

I wholeheartedly support legislation introduced by Congressman RANGEL which would extend Temporary Extended Unemployment Compensation for an additional 6 months. We must provide this necessary relief to America's unemployed.

Mr. Chairman, I urge a "no" vote on the previous question.

CONVEYANCE OF DECOMMISSIONED COAST GUARD CUTTER

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Teusday, May 13, 2003

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H.R. 517, and to honor the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter *Bramble* and her crew for its many years of faithful service. Commissioned in 1944, the *Bramble* began her service in San Diego providing navigational assistance.

In 1957, the Coast Guard Cutters *Spar* and *Storis* joined the *Bramble* for a historic journey around the northern coast of Canada from the Pacific to the Atlantic. This trip lasted 64 days and made the trio the first surface ships to circumnavigate the continent of North America.

After her historic and successful mission, the *Bramble* was relocated to Detroit in 1962, and Port Huron in 1975, where the *Bramble* would finish her career. Through her primary mission of aiding navigation, the *Bramble* has assisted merchant and private vessels as they navigate the Saginaw Bay, Lake Huron, and Lake Erie. The *Bramble* has also provided much needed assistance with law enforcement operations, ice breaking, and by serving as the Patrol Commander for the Port Huron to Mackinac Sailboat race.

The *Bramble* will now be placed in the Port Huron Museum of Arts and History, and will open its doors to allow the public a glimpse of history. On behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Michigan, I would like to again honor the *BRAMBLE* and her for her many years of service in the Great Lakes.

TRIBUTE TO ARMY SGT. JOE GARZA

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 19, 2003

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to another fallen soldier who gave the last full